

EXHIBIT "A"

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

The purpose of this scope of work is to define certain tasks requested by the Nevada County Executive Office (NCEO) necessary to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance requirements for implementation of the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Extension (proposed project). Kimley-Horn will provide the services specifically set forth below.

TASK 1: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

An environmental analysis will be required for the proposed project prior to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) making a determination on the effects and the level of documentation required under NEPA (PL 91-190, 42 USC 4321 ET. Seq.) as outlined in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

Based on discussions with Nevada County and the BLM and understanding of the BLM NEPA process, Kimley-Horn assumes that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required to determine whether the proposed action would result in any significant environmental effects. It is further assumed that environmental impacts are minor, and as such is likely that the need for environmental analysis of alternatives will be minimized.

Task 1a – Project Scoping and Public Scoping Meeting

A draft scoping letter will be prepared for BLM review. It is assumed that the scoping letter along with a map showing the proposed project will be forwarded by the BLM to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento District, for the purpose of soliciting any comments on the environmental scope of the project. A final scoping letter will be prepared following BLM's review and comment.

Kimley-Horn understands that the County has engaged in stakeholder meetings regarding this and related projects. Kimley-Horn assumes that the County will hold one (1) additional scoping meeting to obtain public input regarding the proposed project. Kimley-Horn will prepare the needed materials for the presentation to include a PowerPoint presentation, appropriate boards, and handouts describing and depicting the proposed project, and Project Scoping Comment Cards. Kimley-Horn assumes the County will provide the location and advertise the time and date for the Public Scoping Meeting. Depending on number of anticipated attendees, Kimley-Horn may recommend the meeting be less formal and a series of tables with project information be provided and questions can be answered, and comments taken directly.

Deliverables:

- *Draft Scoping Letter in electronic PDF format*
- *Final Scoping Letter in electronic PDF format*
- *Presentation and/or tables hosted by Kimley-Horn, GANDA, and County Staff (as needed).*

Task 1b – Purpose, Need and Alternative Analysis

Kimley-Horn will work with the County to develop the purpose and need statement that identifies “practical and reasonable” alternatives that must be analyzed and compared during the EA process. The purpose and need statement must also analyze whether environmental impacts (if any) are acceptable based on the project’s importance. Kimley-Horn will use data received in response to the Scoping Letter and Public Scoping Meeting, the County, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), BLM, and other agencies or individuals to meet BLM requirements.

Kimley-Horn will document the local and regional needs for the project, the reasoning behind the project’s initiation and the planning that has occurred to this point. Where appropriate, planning data and study findings from the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Forest Health Grant Program and the CALFIRE Strategic Fire Plan for California will be referenced and utilized to document existing conditions and the prescriptions needed to reduce wildfire hazards.

Kimley-Horn assumes that with the above information and other available resources, a project description describing the proposed action and the no build alternative may be utilized as part of the documents for the environmental EA. It is assumed that one additional alternatives analysis will be required. If BLM requires evaluation of other alternatives, then that evaluation will be considered an additional service.

Task 1c – Affected Environment

Kimley-Horn will research necessary environmental categories. The level of detail needed to address the BLM environmental categories depends on the nature of the resource. Kimley-Horn will identify and describe, according to the format and procedures outlined by the BLM, the existing environment which may be affected if the proposed action is implemented. This includes the natural, built and socio/economic environments. Appropriate and necessary data will be mapped and presented in graphic form. Readily available background information will be gathered to augment existing data as necessary for various disciplines.

In addition, Kimley-Horn will evaluate the nature and extent of any potential environmental consequences from the proposed action and the need for Project Design Features (PDFs) to reduce potential environmental effects. Many of the issue areas addressed in the EA are not anticipated to have the potential for significant effects due to the nature of the Project. The specific purpose of the analysis in the EA will be to identify potentially significant adverse environmental effects and identify needed PDFs and present the document to BLM for the eventual preparation of an EIS or FONSI.

Air Quality – Kimley-Horn will prepare a qualitative discussion of air emissions and impacts. This scope assumes that no additional air quality assessment efforts or studies will be required. The requirements of the General Conformity Rule of the Clean Air Act will be addressed in the analysis with the assumption that project emissions will be within applicable thresholds, and that a Formal Conformity Determination will not be required. The results of the air quality assessment will include qualitative discussions of

hazardous air pollutants, particulate matter exposures, and mitigation measures if necessary. If the BLM requires additional analysis, that will be conducted as an additional service.

Biological Resources – This section will rely on the Biological Resources Study, prepared by Garcia and Associates (GANDA) as a sub consultant to Kimley-Horn. This section will discuss biotic natural resources and the potential for protected fish and wildlife species, vegetation including rare plants and non-native and invasive species, wetlands, and the overall habitat(s) and characteristics of the project area. This scope does not include detailed listed species surveys that would typically require multiple day/month surveys. If additional, seasonal species-specific surveys are required, a separate scope and fee will be prepared for those services. If listed species or potential habitat occur on or near the project, this information will be presented graphically.

Compatible Land Use – The land use of the project area will be reviewed, described, and mapped. Kimley-Horn will use information provided the County and BLM to identify existing and future land uses in the project area. This section will discuss conformity with applicable planning documents.

Cultural Resources – This section will rely on the Cultural Resources Study, prepared by GANDA as a sub-consultant to Kimley-Horn. Based on initial communication it does not appear that a Section 106 Review will be required. If a Section 106 Review is required, it could be prepared as an additional service. Kimley-Horn will prepare a draft tribal coordination letter for review and distribution by the BLM Motherload Field Office. If the BLM requires a more detailed cultural and archeological survey, that will be conducted as an additional service.

Environmental Justice – This section will evaluate the locations of minority and low-income populations in proximity to the Project site and evaluate the potential for disproportionate effects to occur.

Forest Structure and Fuel Loading – The natural forest structure and fuel loading within the Project area has been heavily modified due to historic fire suppression methodologies resulting in a higher likelihood of catastrophic wildfires. This section will evaluate the existing forest structure and proposed treatments to reduce fuel loading and minimize fire hazards through promotion of a more natural forest composition and ecological regime.

Greenhouse Gases – This analysis will provide a qualitative analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contributions to climate change/global warming. This section will focus on the carbon contributions that uncontrolled wildfires can contribute to the atmosphere and the sequestration of carbon that would result upon future more natural forest growth.

Recreation– the Project area will be described based on existing BLM classifications for recreational use and the current level of recreational uses that may include both passive and active recreational uses. The potential for Project activities to affect the use of the area will be evaluated.

Noise – Ambient noise associated with the Project area will be qualitatively described and addressed. While it is assumed that the noise generated from the proposed treatments activities will not substantially affect nearby uses and sensitive receptors, this will be evaluated.

Soils – This section will evaluate the soil composition and characteristics of the Project site and the sensitivity to management. This will include a description of the slopes, erosion and compaction potential, and permeability that will inform treatment methodologies.

Social and Socio-Economic Impact – Readily available public information will be gathered to identify and describe the economic and demographic trends in the area to the extent that they may be affected.

Transportation and Traffic – The Project area is located in an area crossed in by Highway 20 and various smaller county roads that are predominantly used by local residents and for emergency access. This section will qualitatively evaluate potential changes in access and delays, increased use of the roadways and associated deterioration, and delayed response times. This scope of services assumed no traffic study will be needed.

Visual/Aesthetics – The Project has the potential to affect the visual characteristics of the site and surrounding as viewed by users and off-site viewers. This section will evaluate the Project in comparison to the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) systems and describe changes to the existing visual resources. This scope of work does not include the preparation of any visual simulations or renderings. Should visual simulations or renderings be determined to be required, these can be prepared as an additional service.

Water Resources – Water resources, including groundwater, surface water including streams, and potential for receiving waters to be impacts by erosion will be qualitatively documented and evaluated through review of existing publicly readily available published reports and maps.

Cumulative Impacts– Kimley-Horn will assess the impact categories to determine if potential cumulative impacts would result from the proposed improvements. Cumulative impacts will be assessed by reviewing past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects (in consultation with County staff) at in the project area and surrounding environs.

Topics Considered and Dismissed

Kimley-Horn assumes the following issue areas will not need to be evaluated in the environmental document and dismissed from further analysis because they are not present within the Project area or are present but would not be adversely affected and a more detailed analysis is not required. However, to the extent the following issues are determined to be present during the Environmental Analysis, they will be evaluated and included in the environmental document.

Farmland and Grazing Land – Kimley-Horn reviewed the State of California Nevada County Important Farmland map dated 2018. The project site is not mapped in an area containing Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.

Livestock Grazing; Rangeland Health – The Project site is not mapped in an area designated by the California Department of Conservation as grazing land.

Geology/ Mineral Resources – The Project consists of a fuel modification program and would not involve substantial excavation and does not include any construction that could affect or be affected by geologic hazards. The Project does not propose to extract or use any mineral resources and would not preclude any such future uses in the Project area.

Paleontological Resources – The project consists of a fuel modification program and would not involve substantial excavation that would affect buried and unknown paleontological resources.

Special Designations (e.g. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Conservation Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers) – The Project is not located in an ACEC, a Natural Conservation Area, or in proximity to any Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Wilderness/Lands with Wilderness Characteristics– The Project is not located in wilderness or in area with wilderness characteristics. The Project area is an extension of existing fuel modification activities and is in close proximity to rural residential areas.

Wild Horse and Burro Management Area – The Project is not located in an area with a Wild Horse and Burro Management Area.

Task 1d – Environmental Consequences

Using the data collected and analyzed in the task above, the evaluation will be completed for the applicable categories, and the affected environment and the environmental consequences of the proposed project will be described. This will include supporting text, figures, graphics, and appendices to demonstrate the impacts of the Project.

Deliverable:

Kimley-Horn will respond to one consolidated set of comments from County staff on preliminary draft. Kimley-Horn will prepare a preliminary a draft EA for submittal to the BLM. Upon receiving BLM staff comments Kimley-Horn will prepare the final Draft EA for Public Review.

- *1 hard copy and electronic file of the Preliminary Draft, Draft and Final Draft EA.*

Task 1e – Public Review

It is anticipated that BLM will require the Draft EA be placed on display at the field office and the Grass Valley Library – Royce Branch at 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley CA, 95945 for public review for at least 30 days. Kimley-Horn will provide two (2) copies of the Draft EA to BLM.

This scope of work assumes that a public hearing will not be required. Should a public hearing be required, this effort can be accommodated as an additional service. Attendance at a public hearing would be billed on a time and materials basis.

This task assumes that BLM staff will coordinate advertising in the Federal Register and that no other public notification is required.

Deliverable:

- *Notice of Availability of the Draft EA*

Kimley-Horn can provide assistance to the BLM for the preparation of the EIS or FONSI, but it is assumed that the BLM will draft the EIS or FONSI.

Task 2 – Preparation of Technical Studies

Biological Resources Study –

Desktop Review and Field Verification

As a sub consultant to Kimley-Horn, GANDA will conduct a desktop review of existing information, including aerial imagery, state and federal species and habitat databases, topographic maps and local documents to help characterize potential habitat for federally- and state-listed, proposed, or candidate species, and other special-status species, in the project study area. GANDA will conduct field verification surveys within the project study area to determine suitable habitat for special-status wildlife and plant species. No protocol-level special-status species surveys are included in this task. Prior to field mobilization, we will confirm the extent of the study area with Nevada County.

During field verification, GANDA botanists will update the vegetation map prepared during the desktop review. General vegetation types (e.g., annual grassland, oak woodland, etc.) and special habitats (e.g., freshwater marsh, riparian forest) will be mapped within the project study area.

Biological Resources Memorandum

GANDA will prepare a biological resources memo/report to include the following information:

- Special-status Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Desktop Review (Methods/Results);
- Field Verification (Methods/Results);
- Vegetation Mapping (Methods/Results);
- References;
- Potential for Occurrence Table;
- CNDDDB Mapping;
- Habitat Mapping; and
- Other information necessary to support subsequent permitting or CEQA review (this may include critical habitat mapping, maps of special-status occurrences or active nests observed during field verification, etc.).

Based on both desktop research and field verification, we will evaluate the potential for occurrence of each species identified as potentially present within the study area. This evaluation will be based on historic and recent location records from the CNDDDB, and determine the availability of suitable habitat by interpretation of aerial imagery, and species information available from USFWS and CDFW, and information from the field verification assessment.

The memo/report will include the technical information necessary to prepare the CEQA and/or NEPA document, including an analysis of potential impacts to special-status species and other sensitive

Resources (e.g., habitats, wetlands, etc.). This information can also be used to determine if consultation with other agencies is required, such as the CDFW, RWQCB, USACE, and USFWS. In finalizing the memo, we will also provide measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts.

Attachments to the memo shall include (a) project map(s) with a current color aerial background that identifies at least land ownership, critical habitat, and CNDDDB occurrences within a 2-mile radius of the program area. Other map(s) of background information (e.g., USFWS NWI) and resources identified during field verification (e.g., delineated wetland boundaries, active raptor nests) will be included as appropriate to support analysis.

As necessary, GANDA will provide updates on the status of field verifications and any issues that may result in delays in completing necessary surveys and reports.

Assumptions

- Protocol-level special-status plant and wildlife surveys will not be conducted.
- Jurisdictional wetlands delineation will not be conducted.
- The County will provide landowner notifications, and obtain written authorization to enter, prior to accessing sites.

Cultural Resources Study – The Cultural Resources Study will be prepared by GANDA as a sub consultant to Kimley-Horn. GANDA proposes the preparation of a BLM Class III level cultural resources inventory report (per, BLM 8100 Manual). This will include coordination with the local BLM field office, background research and preparation of a final report.

APE

An Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be developed with the BLM to determine the level of inventory. This APE will include the portions of the project that will be subject to ground disturbance and within areas not previously surveyed as agreed upon with BLM. The Fieldwork Authorization will be submitted with the APE for BLM review and approval. Individual listed on the Fieldwork Authorization Request (FWA) request will be those identified as principal investigators and/or field directors listed on our BLM California Cultural Resources Use Permit.

Record Search

A records search of one half-mile around the APE will be conducted at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), BLM, and other applicable agency, historical society. This task will also include a Sacred Lands File Search with the Native American Heritage Commission. This information will be included in the Class III report and be used to guide pedestrian surveys APE.

Survey and Report

A Class III field survey will be conducted of the BLM approved APE as noted above. This will include an intensive survey using transect spacing of 15-30-meter intervals, and as agreed upon with BLM. New resources will be recorded in accordance with the OHP Instructions for Recording Historic Resources on

The appropriate DPR forms. For new cultural resources that extend outside of the APE, the BLM district archaeologist will be consulted to develop a strategy for recordation. The archaeological survey will be conducted by two individuals on the approved BLM FWA within four days.

Upon completion of the fieldwork, GANDA will prepare a Class III report detailing the work conducted. The report will include a description of the undertaking and the definition of the APE used as the basis for identification and evaluation recommendations. Eligibility recommendation evaluations made by GANDA are recommendations only. The BLM will determine NRHP eligibility in concurrence with SHPO, according to criteria listed in 36 CFR Part 60.4.

Assumptions

- No more than five cultural resources will be identified, requiring preparation of Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms.
- Recordation of these 5 sites will require no more than 1 day (8 hours) with two people to record on the appropriate DPR forms.
- Survey and site recordation will require no more two individuals 4 days to complete.
- BLM will not require a detailed work plan for the FWA.
- BLM will approve the FWA within 3 weeks with one round of revision (less than 3 hours to address/coordinate).
- The project area is 455 acres.
- The project does not have the potential to effect cultural resources.
- Additional cultural resources technical studies will not be required.
- No in-person meetings with tribes or others are required.
- North Central Information Center fee will not exceed \$800.
- The BLM will complete Native American consultation pursuant to Section 106.

Task 3 – Project Meetings and Coordination

During the project duration, Kimley-Horn will prepare for and attend the following meetings. These meetings would be held only if needed to review the EA.

- Up to four (4) meetings with the project team and regulatory agencies.
- Up to two (2) additional meetings/teleconferences with BLM.
- Phone calls with the project team shall be provided as necessary.

This Task will include phone meetings and conference calls, depending on the nature of phone meetings, conference calls beyond those needed for relatively short points of clarification and/or project updates. The County will only be billed for the meetings that we are requested to attend.

Reimbursable Expenses:

Kimley-Horn has included an approximate budget amount within this Scope of Work to cover the direct

costs for the project including, but not limited to, printing, plotting, reproduction, in-house reproduction, working drawings, progress prints, mileage, messenger service, and overnight deliveries.

It is not known at this time if the following task would be required as part of the EA preparation process and so it is provided as an optional task should the County or BLM decide to include this in the scope of work at a later date.

Task 4 – Response to Public Comments

Upon completion of the public review period, Kimley-Horn will prepare written responses to the letters of comment received. This scope of work assumes the County will provide additional clarification as necessary. The responses will be submitted to the County prior to submittal to the BLM. The Draft Responses to Comments will be prepared and submitted for review by BLM staff. Following review of the Draft Responses to Comments, Kimley-Horn will finalize this section for inclusion in the final version of the document. Our scope assumes 18 hours of staff time, to be billed on an hourly basis, for response to comments. If the required time exceeds this amount, additional hours will be billed on a time and materials basis.

Assumptions

Kimley-Horn will be entitled to rely on the completeness and accuracy of all information provided by the County or the County's consultants or representatives, including but not limited to the site plan, engineering plans (grading plan, utility plan, erosion control plan, and geotechnical reports), and all technical studies.

Exclusions:

Any other services, including but not limited to the following, are not part of this Scope of Work:

- Staff Reports
- Document Reproduction
- California Environmental Quality Act documentation
- Notice of Determination filing
- Preparation of technical studies
- Architectural/civil design services
- Hazardous and remediation services
- Franchise utility studies and/or design
- Permitting (e.g., 404, 401, 1602 wetland permits) with Regulatory Agencies
- Payment of any agency fees

